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PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Kris Nakagawa, Chief Legal Counsel

Date: August 6, 2004

For Immediate Release

**Public Utilities Commission Establishes a Public Comment Period
Regarding the Sale of Verizon Hawaii Inc.**

Today, the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") issued an order that, among other things, establishes a comment period to give the general public a greater opportunity to participate and voice their comments on the proposed transfer of control of Verizon Hawaii Inc. to a subsidiary of The Carlyle Group.

From today through 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 30, 2004, interested persons may submit comments to the Commission on the proposed transfer of control by sending written comments to: Public Utilities Commission, State of Hawaii, 465 South King Street, Room No. 103, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813. They may also e-mail comments to: Hawaii.PUC@hawaii.gov. All comments should reference Docket No. 04-0140. The Commission will make all such comments received during the comment period available for public review and information on its website at www.hawaii.gov/budget/puc/puc.htm and during regular business hours at its Honolulu and neighbor island district offices.

Details of the proposed sale are contained in the application and exhibits filed jointly by Paradise MergerSub, Inc.; GTE Corporation; Verizon Hawaii Inc.; Bell Atlantic Communications, Inc.; and Verizon Select Services Inc. on June 21, 2004 in Docket No. 04-0140. The application and exhibits are currently available for public review and inspection on the Commission's website at www.hawaii.gov/budget/puc/puc.htm and at its Honolulu and neighbor island district offices.

Also in its order issued today, the Commission allowed the United States Department of Defense and All Other Federal Executive Agencies; Pacific LightNet, Inc.; and Time Warner Telecom of Hawaii, L.P., dba Oceanic Communications to intervene in the transfer of control proceeding. In addition, the Commission permitted the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1357 ("IBEW"), Mr. Jeremiah C. Genovia and Mr. Charles K. Hekeia Jr. to jointly participate in the docket, so they may have an opportunity to address issues related to the effects of the transfer of control on the vested benefits of the retirees of Verizon Hawaii Inc. and the terms and conditions of employment of IBEW members.

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